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L'UMILE PIANTA.

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W.

CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS OF ADDRESS.

1898. Allen, E. C., c/o Mrs. Brocklebank, Guestling, Alverstoke, Hants (temporary post).
1911. Baines, M. E., c/o Mrs. Clerk, Harmer Green Lodge, Welwyn, Herts (post).
1912. Bell, G., c/o Mrs. Paton, Chipley Park, Wellington, Somerset.
1909. Bishop, V. R., Sunnyhill, Ridgeway, Wimbledon.
1910. Channing-Pearce, L., c/o Mrs. Gray Buchanan, The Cottage, Knebworth (post).
1912. Couchman, J. E., c/o Mrs. Ashford, R.N. College, Dartmouth (post).
1911. Deck, M., c/o Mrs. Wigram, Cooper Road, Lahore, India (post).
1903. Duyvis, A., travelling in California.

1902. Fraser, C. Letters sent to 25, Clanricarde Gardens, Hyde Park, will be forwarded to her in Egypt, where she now is.
1911. Harvey, C., c/o Mrs. Ebsworth, Llandough Castle, Cowbridge R.S.O., Glamorgan (post).
1900. Hodge, M. F. V., The High School for Girls, Lichfield.
1912. King, M., High Wathcote, Richmond, Yorks (no post at present).
1894. Lamb, Mrs. (née E. Evans), 17, Brook Green, London, W.
1893. Mucklow, F., at Witton Tower, Witton-le-Wear, Co. Durham (post).
1899. Spearman, E. (Mrs. Hall), c/o H. D. Hall, Esq., Victoria Wharf, Croydon.
1906. Taylor, I., Oakbank, Dollar, Clackmannanshire, N.B. (sole address).
1905. Wiseman, M. H., Howard de Walden Institute, Maidstone (temporary post).

MARRIAGE.

MILNE-BEATTY.—At Kalimpong, by the Rev. J. A. Graham, D.D., C.I.G. Guild Mission, and the Rev. W. S. Sutherland, D.D., Universities Mission, the Rev. Peter Milne, B.D., Duars' Chaplain, to Marion Beatty, daughter of Rev. W. Beatty, D.D., Ex. Mod. and Ex-Missionary of Irish Presbyterian Church, India.

EDITORIAL.

It has reached the ears of the Editor that some ex-students are labouring under the delusion that only a favoured few are *allowed* to write for L'UMILE PIANTA. Such an absurd idea should need no contradiction. However, the Editor takes this opportunity of stating that it is the *duty* of every

student to contribute to her magazine. So if those who are evidently so anxious to write will kindly send their articles to the Editor, she is quite willing to accept them.

It is most unfortunate that so many students do not realise that they owe a duty towards their Association. The few who do realise this, work hard, and their reward is to hear that it is "unfortunate that affairs are always managed by the same people"—meaning, we suppose, the Committee members. Yet these members are elected by the students themselves every other year—that is, by those who trouble to vote—and any student living in or near London may offer herself for election. In the January number, people were asked to send in their names, as the election time is drawing near. One student complied! Therefore whose fault is it that "affairs are always managed by the same people"? To complain is basest ingratitude.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

May I again remind students that the annual subscriptions of 3/6 for the current year fell due in January. Up to the present I have received 117, which leaves quite 100 still to be paid. I have always had a vision of getting all in by Easter; but, alas, it is still a vision! But I should be glad if students would help me to realise it.

L. GRAY (Treasurer),
5, Old Palace Lane,
Richmond, S.W.

NOTICES.

Miss W. Kitching recommends anyone wanting a new desk for school use to write to Heal & Sons Ltd., 196, Tottenham Court Road, W., and ask for particulars of their "waxed oak school desk and chair, No. 529, price 48s." She recommends it as "a really ideal desk."

The Brighton Summer School for Primary and Secondary Teachers offers excellent opportunities to anyone wishing to improve her knowledge of bookbinding, woodwork, metalwork, Swedish drill, eurythmics (which Miss W. Kitching told us about in the last number), or even the Montessori method, and many other things. The fees are £3 3s. for all or any of the subjects for a month, but a lesser time may be taken for a smaller fee. Miss B. M. Goode kindly offers board and residence at about 21s. to any of us who would like to go to her at Burgess Hill, which is quite near Brighton. The course lasts from July 28th to August 23rd, and further particulars may be obtained from J. E. Miller, 54, Old Steine, Brighton.

Have many students discovered the delightful paper *Everyman*? It is well worth getting, and costs only 1d. It is published by Dent, and comes out every Friday, and is on sale at all bookstalls, etc.

The next number of L'UMILE PIANTA will appear on May 15th, 1913. All contributions must reach the Editor not later than April 25th.

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

At a meeting held at 13, Chilworth Street, on January 4th, the following were present: Misses E. Kitching, MacSheehy, Fountain, Loveday, Davis, Denne, and Young. Miss Kitching's visit was much appreciated, as she was able to answer the numerous inquiries about Scale How. Three of those present had been to the "Children's Welfare Exhibition" at Olympia, and there was some discussion as to the success of such an exhibition.

The difficulties of arranging an Educational Pageant for the next Students' Conference were also discussed, but no solution of the problem was arrived at.

February 1st.—In spite of rain overhead and mud underfoot a large number of students found their way to Chilworth

Street to hear Miss Krüger's paper on the teaching of French pronunciation. It was delightful to see so large an audience, for it was very good of Miss Krüger to give up her time to us in this way. The lecture is reported elsewhere, so I need not refer to it here, except just to say what a great pleasure it was to listen to the recitations at the end, given with real dramatic power. We hope to discuss the possibilities of forming a class amongst students at the March meeting. The lecture was given in an upper school-room, and it needed clever arrangement to find seats for everybody, for there were over twenty students and about half-a-dozen visitors; but Miss Faunce (Miss Evans unfortunately could not be there) nobly rose to the occasion, and all passed off most successfully. Then "tea and talk" was the order of the day downstairs, and those who were not there can imagine the babel. It was nearly 6 o'clock before the last students left, and all felt glad to have been there.

The following students were present, and if any one is left out I hope she will pardon the omission: Misses Allen, Bernau, M. Conder, Cox, Cooper, Chaplin, Davis, Franklin, Faunce, Gray, Hall, Hart, C. E. Henderson, Judd, Kitching, Mew, Norris, Stubbs, MacSheehy, W. Wilkinson, and Young, and Mrs. Bellerby, Mrs. Hughes-Jones, and Mrs. Pringle.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.

On Thursday, January 9th, 1913, a meeting of the ex-students of the Manchester Branch was held at St. Luke's Rectory, Cheetham Hill, Manchester. There was a meagre attendance, only G. T. Bradford, D. Bradford, A. P. Whittall, D. Whittall, and O. Thorp being present. The question of a coming-of-age celebration at the next students' conference was raised. The idea of an educational pageant was unfavourably criticised on the score of pageants being all somewhat similar and hackneyed. An "educational"

play was proposed, but the term "educational" used in this way was not defined. Rehearsals in any case would be a great difficulty amongst our scattered band.

The following books of songs were mentioned as useful in cases when the songs set on the programmes were too difficult for special children:—

"Songs for Children," by Eleanor Smith, vol. i., price 4/6; published by Curwen & Co.

"Old English Folk Songs," collected by Cecil Sharpe and Baring-Gould, price about 2/-; published by Curwen & Co.

STUDENTS' MEETING.

Students will be glad to hear that Miss Mew has very kindly invited us to St. Bartholomew's Hospital for our April meeting. All those who were there before know what a delightful time we had, and I am sure as many as possibly can will make a point of going and seeing all for themselves. Will students kindly send word to Miss Mew (Faith Ward) as soon as possible, so that she may know how many to expect.

OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING.

At our meeting at 13, Chilworth Street, on February 1st, Miss Krüger, of whom most of us have heard, very kindly came to lecture to us on her method by which one can obtain a perfect French accent in nine months.

Miss Krüger insists that only hard work is needed, and that she herself has no especial gift for language. She has, on the contrary, tried several times to acquire French satisfactorily, and has failed till she discovered this method. The notable point to realise is that you cannot acquire a good accent by mimicry. It is useless to think that by imitating the sounds you hear around you, even during a year abroad,

you will acquire a lasting power of making those sounds; you must know what you are aiming at and how to set about getting it. For instance, Miss Krüger told us, what I for one had failed to notice, that whereas in English we can easily sound vowels alone, in French a vowel is usually sounded by means of its preceding consonant, e.g., Ca-na-da, and not Can-ad-a, as we say.

When some rules of that kind are understood, the next thing is to find out how these sounds are produced, from what part of the mouth, with what position of the lips, together with other technicalities. Then, having mentally arrived, one must practise so unceasingly that it becomes second nature for the mind to realise what is wanted and the voice to frame the sound.

Miss Krüger told us that she had undertaken this task in the midst of important work that took her to Liverpool, I believe, three times a week, yet she spared half-an-hour every day, perhaps while she dressed, perhaps in tubes and trains, and was so much encouraged by the result she obtained that it seemed no effort.

We saw a chart of the fifteen sounds of which the French language is made up, and below each were words in which it occurs. Miss Krüger showed us how dependable is French spelling: you cannot have *half*, *hearth*, *laugh*, and *lath*, and the other regrettable occurrences only too common in English. Great stress was also laid on the attention to rhythm necessary to produce a really French sentence; one has often noticed how French people time their sentences, as Mrs. Curwen "ta's" a phrase of music. But that is a thing we English cannot do—it seems to us so affected. It is really affectation to mutilate the French language so that we appear singular indeed in our employment of it. We must understand that each language has its mannerisms; the English language is staccato, and a French person speaking it smoothly would speak it imperfectly. But the French

talk in sentences that flow—each word leads to the next; it is hardly even a separate unit. In connection with the rhythm Miss Krüger mentioned the emphasis to be laid on certain syllables. This emphasis stamps the word as the real thing, or makes of it merely a translation. We say *charming*, therefore in French we say *charmant*; and the more charming we think it, the more we twist and turn the poor French word away from its use to express our delight.

In the French word *charmant*, the emphasis should be on the last syllable, *charmant*, with a fascinating downward inflexion on the first syllable, and a rising, truly appreciative note to end up with. It struck me as Miss Krüger spoke that it serves to illustrate the contrast between the two nations—the English, having expressed approval in the heartiest way they can, leave it at that; the French inflexion is more suggestive, and implies a wealth of admiration still unexpressed.

To end up her delightful lecture, Miss Krüger treated us to a truly finished recital of two or three French poems. It was just exactly French; there is no more to be said, and she gave all the credit to the method! There was a large audience, which very much appreciated all that they heard. We learnt a great deal, and hope we may be able to form a class to study the method right through from beginning to end. Any students in or near London wishing to have further particulars can get them by applying to Miss Gray.

The only doubt in my mind is whether Miss Krüger did not bring as much to the method as the method brought to her; but she solemnly assured us that she had several times lived abroad for certain long periods, to master the accent for singing purposes, but without success. It is true that she has the artistic temperament that makes the most of everything, but beyond that my mind is quite made up that she would not have pursued the method had she got what she wanted without it.

She firmly denies that persons of different nationalities have differently formed throats. The tools are the same, but they are used differently, she says, according to the needs of the language, and we must learn to listen that we may find out the needs, then we must apply ourselves to the intellectual effort of producing the sound we have heard, and finally we must practise so constantly that we become to the manner born.

BALANCE SHEET, 1912.

Received.			Payments.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance in hand ...	8	4 0	Garden City Press	27	18 5
185 subs. at 3/6 ...	32	7 6	H. of E. Ties ...	2	9 10
Odd amounts ...	0	1 9	H. of E. Badges ...	4	4 0
17 H. of E. Badges			Carriage of Maga-		
at 3/6 ...	2	19 6	zines ...	0	5 11
28 H. of E. Ties at			Stationery ...	0	5 6
2/- ...	2	16 0	Wrappers ...	2	1 0
4 yds. belting at 9d.	0	3 0	Stamps per Subs.	0	6 0
1 Subscription ...	1	0 0	Miss Wix ...	1	0 6
1 Magazine ...	0	0 6	Postage ...	4	5 0
107 P.U.S. Badges					
at 3d. ...	1	6 9		42	16 2
			Balance in hand ...	6	2 10
	£48	19 0		£48	19 0

LILIAN GRAY, *Treasurer.*

BOOKS.

"The Real Siberia," by John Foster Fraser, is now published in a shilling edition. Most interesting. Writer journeys through Siberia on one of the ordinary trains. He

does not find it nearly so bad as it is painted, and predicts a "Canadian" future for Siberia.

"A History of the British Nation," by A. D. Innes (reviewed by P. R.). A ponderous tome of 1,000 pages. Includes history from the very beginning to George V.'s reign. The illustrations are taken from contemporary drawings and paintings. It is published by Jack, London, at 3/6.

LETTERS.

"Scale How."

DEAR EX-STUDENTS,

Before we set out to recount Scale How news for this term, some explanation is necessary—that we stands for five ex-seniors, sixteen seniors, and twenty juniors.

It seemed as though we came back but yesterday until this week, when the announcement was made that half-term is in view. Now all are busy making plans for the eventful day and spend any spare moments gazing at the sky and consulting the weather monitress; to be assured that this week-end we are to be favoured with delightful sunshine. For it would be nice, just for once, to have "half-term" on the first day arranged for it. We have indeed been treated badly by the clerk of the weather this term; for five days it rained steadily, without ceasing, and we began to despair of ever seeing the sun again. Then one morning, when the heavy sky made us anticipate another "no walks" day, we were agreeably surprised. At about ten o'clock the sun crept out and shone straight into the classroom for exactly four minutes. Then, alas! he stole away behind his bank of clouds for three more days. But his appearance, for however short a time, relieved our fears about him.

Naturally such weather has not been encouraging to the would-be hockey player. At the beginning of the term we played one game, then came the rain, and for four weeks we had no more hockey. Last week, however, we began